

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 309165 TOSEC 130002
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 309165 TOSEC 130002

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN DTD 29 DEC 1977 QTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 9740

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PGOV, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: HUSSEIN'S MILITARY AID REQUEST

REF: AMMAN 9739

1. YOU ASKED ME DURING YOUR LAST VISIT TO TAKE A LOOK AT KING HUSSEIN'S MILITARY AID REQUESTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOU. WE HAVE COMPLETED THAT PROCESS WORKING WITH GENERAL BIN SHAKER AND THE RESULT IS REFTEL WHICH HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO ROY ATHERTON.

2. IN THE MAIN THE JORDANIANS WANT THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN NEW ITEMS AND MORE RAPID DELIVERY OF CERTAIN FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES. FUNDING IS STILL BEING STUDIED, BUT AS OF NOW WE THINK THAT NEARLY ALL OF THE ITEMS THEY WANT CAN BE INCLUDED IN OUR PROPOSED FY 79 PROGRAM TO WHICH \$10 M HAS BEEN RESTORED, I UNDERSTAND,

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AS A RESULT OF ACTION YOU TOOK AFTER LEAVING AMMAN. IF MORE FUNDS ARE NEEDED WE WILL TRY TO KEEP OUR RECOMMENDATION WITHIN THE FLEXIBILITY ALLOWED BY THE LAW FOR FY 79 OR FOR FY 80 IN ORDER NOT TO DISRUPT THE ONGOING BUDGET PROCESS.

3. SINCE THE KING MAY WELL RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH THE PRESIDENT, I SUGGEST THAT WE SAY THE FOLLOWING:

-- GENERAL BIN SHAKER HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE LIST OF NEEDS AND WE HAVE REVIEWED THESE WITH HIM.

-- THEY FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES, DECISIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF SYSTEMS, DECISIONS ON EARLY DELIVERY, AND POSSIBLE FUNDING ADDITIONS FOR FUTURE YEARS.

-- WE ARE STUDYING EACH ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS NOW IN WASHINGTON, WITH SYMPATHY AND WILL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS WE CAN WHAT POSITIVE ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE JORDAN'S MILITARY POSTURE.

-- THE MATTER WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY HANDLING BY THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF YOUR NEED AND THE REASONS FOR THIS NEED AND WANT TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS MATTER AND WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.

4. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER BILATERAL MATTER WHICH AT PRESENT WILL ARISE IN THE TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN. IF THE SITUATION ALLOWS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REASSURE HIM OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE MAQARIN DAM AND POTASH PROJECTS, BOTH INVESTMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND OVERALL STABILITY IN THE AREA.

PICKERING UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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